

## Abstract

**THESIS:** A Framework for a Civic-Urban Farm Model in Indianapolis

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Chronic disease and unhealthy weight is an epidemic threatening the future wellbeing of Indianapolis. This study identifies how the City, and its partners, can improve fresh produce access and availability in high-risk neighborhoods through urban farming and gardening strategies. Recommendations for the City and allied organizations include: the degree of participation, food production and distribution, land policy and farm/garden location, educational programming, and economic sustainability. Target areas for new farms and gardens are identified through GIS overlay mapping and computational of indicators for chronic illness, food environment, and food insecurity.

The intended outcome is a guide for the City of Indianapolis, and others facing similar problems, to implement and sustain City programs that address health in high-risk neighborhoods.